

February 2009  
Volume 4, Issue 2

# Skyraider Sentinel

## Skyraider Aviation Welcomes New Club Member!

- Steve Callan
- Bill Halbert
- Serena Swanson

## This Month in Aviation History



Lockheed Constellation

## February 5th, 1946...

On this date, *Transcontinental and Western Air* (TWA) completed its first scheduled transatlantic air service with a flight from New York to Paris. The flight, conducted in a Lockheed Constellation, was only possible after a lengthy legal battle that broke Pan Am's monopoly as the United States' sole international air carrier. Later that year, TWA added more international routes to its repertoire, prompting TWA to change its name to *Trans World Airlines*. Throughout these early years, TWA continued to use the Lockheed Constellation (a.k.a. "the Connie") as its workhorse. The Connie was eventually rendered obsolete by the advent of jet airliners, but nevertheless, it continued to fly passengers through 1967.

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"I ask people who don't fly, 'How can you not fly when you live in a time in history when you can fly?'"

— William Langewische, 2001

## Hundred Dollar Chili Burger

Too often new pilots lose interest in flying because they just can't think of things to do with the license. After they've taken their family and friends up for a little sightseeing, and have seen their houses from the air, the creative juices stop flowing, and the pilots stop flying. That is definitely not the case with **Jim Fox!**

Jim earned his sport pilot certificate at Skyraider Aviation back in August, and he's kept the aviation fires burning with a series of regular adventures. One recent escapade took Jim and his girlfriend Sara to Raton, New Mexico. "Why Raton?" one might ask. The answer is simple... because it's there. It also helps that Raton is just about 200 nautical miles away, making for a fairly easy day trip. And, as Jim and Sara would later find out, the owners of the FBO at Raton Municipal make the best hamburgers and green chili this side of the Rockies.

So, at 9am on a fine February morning, Jim fired up the 100 horse Rotax of his StingSport (an airplane in which he recently attained a partial ownership stake), and set out for New Mexico. The trip took him south through a VFR corridor that avoids Denver's Class B airspace and then direct to Colorado Springs East Airport. While the jog over to Colorado Springs East was a little out of the way, it let Jim avoid C-Spring's Class C airspace, all the restricted airspace around the Air Force Academy, and quite a bit of high terrain. Once over Colorado Springs East, Jim entered Raton (KRTN) into the GPS and headed due south. His flight

path sent him directly over the top of Pueblo Municipal Airport and their Class D airspace. From there he continued following the GPS until he reached Trinidad, Colorado. At that point it was time to ignore the GPS and start flying IFR (I Follow Roads). Beyond Trinidad the terrain rises sharply from a modest 6,000 feet to well over 8,000. The safest way to get over that terrain while still sticking to the sport pilot restrictions is to go through Raton Pass which tops out at 7,800 feet. The best way to find Raton Pass is to follow I-25 from Trinidad. So Jim followed the interstate across the pass and into New Mexico. Raton Municipal was only 15nm over the border.

Arriving at Raton Municipal, Jim and Sara were greeted by the owners of Pegasus Aviation, Keith and Fern. If you regularly fly into small airports, you will be familiar with one of the greatest facets of general aviation... the people. Keith and Fern are no exception. They offer great service, genuine hospitality, and of course the aforementioned hamburgers and green chili. (Here's a tip: Get the green chili on your burger.) Fern will also take a picture of you next to your airplane, and will add it to the Pegasus Aviation photo album. If you go to Raton, check out the album. Not only will you see a picture of Jim and Sara, but you'll see a number of celebrities as well, including Tom Seleck and Patrick Swayze.

So, if you're a pilot who's grown tired of just doing touch-and-goes to maintain your currency, or if you're a student wondering what you're going to do once you get your license, take a tip from Jim Fox. Just get out there and fly. Good times, great people, and excellent adventures await you!